

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. . An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. G. Mack Riddle (Reg. No. 55572) on 08 April 2008.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

a. Amendment to the Claims :

The claims of this application have been amended as presented below:

1. (Currently amended) In a database system, a method for providing a stored procedure as a Web service, the method comprising:

predefining a stored procedure to be invoked upon receiving a client request for a particular Web service;

receiving an incoming request from a particular client for the particular Web service at an HTTP server built into a database engine of the database system;

in response to the incoming request, identifying the stored procedure that is

predefined for the particular Web service;

executing the identified stored procedure for generating a result set, wherein said executing step includes creating a temporary pseudo connection to the database engine of the database system, and executing the stored procedure asynchronously through said temporary pseudo connection with respect to incoming requests; and

returning the result set back to the particular client.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

upon receiving the incoming request, verifying that the request comprises a valid HTTP request for a Web service.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein client requests employ HTTP protocol.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein client requests further specify a selected one of XML, SOAP, WSDL, and raw format.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said returning step further comprises:

formatting the result set into a particular presentation format; and thereafter

returning the formatted result set back to the particular client.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the incoming request comprises a URL.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the URL includes parameter information affecting how the identified stored procedure is executed.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identified stored procedure may include any valid SQL statement.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identified stored procedure itself may invoke other stored procedures.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identified stored procedure selects data from a database, and wherein the result set returned to the particular client comprises that data formatted in a manner suitable for return via HTTP protocol.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the data is formatted for return as XML-formatted data.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the result set comprises a plurality of database rows, and wherein the XML-formatted data comprises said plurality of database rows delimited with XML row tags.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identified stored procedure itself may set HTTP header information that is returned to the particular client.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the incoming request is received via a selected one of HTTP, FTP, and telnet protocol.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the system first checks user authentication for the particular client before executing the identified stored procedure.

19. (Original) A computer-readable medium having processor-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
a downloadable set of processor-executable instructions stored on a computer-readable medium for performing the method of claim 1.

21. (Currently amended) A database system providing stored procedures as Web services, the system comprising:

a database engine stored on a computer-readable medium, which when executed controls a database that includes a stored procedure to be invoked upon receiving a request for a particular Web service;

a communications layer of the database system for receiving an incoming request from a particular client for the particular Web service;

an HTTP server built into a database engine of the database system for parsing and validating the incoming request;

a request layer of the database system for identifying the stored procedure corresponding to the particular Web service and executing the identified stored procedure for the particular Web service, for generating a result set, wherein the request layer creates a temporary pseudo connection to the database engine of the database system, and executes the stored procedure asynchronously through said temporary pseudo connection with respect to incoming requests; and

a presentation layer of the database system for returning the result set back to the particular client.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the HTTP server verifies that the

incoming request comprises a valid HTTP request for a Web service.

24. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein client requests employ HTTP protocol to communicate with the database system.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein client requests further specify a selected one of XML, SOAP, WSDL, and raw format.

26. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the presentation layer formats the result set into a particular presentation format before returning the result set to the particular client.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the incoming request comprises a URL.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the URL includes parameter information affecting how the identified stored procedure is executed.

30. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the identified stored procedure may include any valid SQL statement.

31. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the identified stored procedure itself may invoke other stored procedures.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the identified stored procedure selects data from the database, and wherein the result set returned to the particular client comprises that data formatted in a manner suitable for return via HTTP protocol.

34. (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein the data is formatted for return as XML-formatted data.

35. (Original) The system of claim 34, wherein the result set comprises a plurality of database rows selected from the database, and wherein the XML-formatted data comprises said plurality of database rows delimited with XML row tags.

36. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the identified stored procedure itself may set HTTP header information that is returned to the particular client.

37. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the incoming request is received via a selected one of HTTP, FTP, and telnet protocol.

38. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the system first checks user authentication for the particular client before executing the identified stored procedure.

39. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the request layer includes program logic for translating the request into a form that can be processed by the database engine.

40. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the incoming request is received over an HTTP connection, and the result set is returned to the particular client over an HTTP connection.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims **1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-21, 23-26, 28-31, 33-40** (now renumbered as claims 1-34) are allowed.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2115

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Abdou Seye whose telephone number is (571) 270-1062. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, contact the examiner's supervisor, An Meng at (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for formal or official faxes to Technology Center 3600 is (571) 273-8300. Draft or informal faxes, which will not be entered in the application, may be submitted directly to the examiner at (571) 273-6722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3600.

AKS

April 08, 2008

/Thomas Lee/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2115